California
MCAS Miramar

Facility and Location

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar is located in San Diego County. During the 1940s, both the Navy and Marine Corps occupied Miramar. East Miramar (Camp Elliot) was used to train Marine artillery and armored personnel, while Navy and Marine Corps pilots trained on the western side. In 1945, the bases were combined and designated MCAS Miramar. In 1947, the Marines moved to El Toro in Orange County and Miramar was re-designated as a Naval Auxiliary Air Station. The facility became NAS Miramar in 1951 and was designated a Master Jet Facility. From 1958 to 1972, the air station doubled in size due to various land acquisitions. In 1969, the Navy established the TOPGUN school to train pilots in dog fighting and fleet air defense during the Vietnam War.

Today, MCAS Miramar serves as home to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, including Marine Aircraft Group 11's fixed wing F/A-18 Hornet and KC-130J Hercules squadrons and Marine Aircraft Group 16's CH-46E Sea Knight and CH-53E Super Stallion squadrons. The MV-22 Osprey began replacing the CH-46 in 2010. The support commands, Marine Wing Support Group 37, Marine Air Control Group 38, and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, are also located here. After an absence of 50 years, MCAS Miramar is once again the home of the Marine Corps' West Coast air power.

In 1993, the Base Realignment and Closure Committee recommended closing El Toro and Tustin air stations and moving the Marines to Miramar and the Navy's TOPGUN and F-14 Tomcat squadrons were relocated. In 1997 the station was again designated Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Media Sampled and Findings

Based on the historic mission of MCAS Miramar, DoD does not expect an environmental release of perchlorate. No sources of perchlorate were identified as being used at the base and there are no firing ranges suspected of containing perchlorate. In addition, groundwater is not a potential source of drinking water. MCAS Miramar has no known drinking water wells and there are none within a mile of the base.

Appropriate Action

Not applicable.